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Identical letters dated 11 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the identical letters by H.E. Mr. Vilayat Guliyev, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, addressed to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General on the continuing aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan resulted in occupation of one fifth of the Azerbaijani territories.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated urgently as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 11 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

As you will recall, in my letter of 2 May 2003 (S/2003/528) regarding the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Security Council resolutions on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan I emphasized that Armenia had so far failed to implement any of the decisions of the Security Council and that the absence of an appropriate reaction from the international community would encourage continued illegal action by the aggressor. I am today once again drawing your attention to this issue, which has brought pain and fear to the hearts of all my compatriots and over which I am asking the Security Council to exercise its responsibility and authority.

Having occupied one fifth of Azerbaijan's territory and conducted ethnic cleansing there, Armenia has spent the past ten years doing all it can to consolidate the results of its armed aggression. It has rapaciously exploited the natural resources of the occupied territories and taken most of those resources to Armenia. According to some reports, it has also used the territories which it occupies to store radioactive wastes, causing irreparable environmental damage. The occupying forces have been deliberately vandalizing and destroying Azerbaijani historic and cultural monuments, as well as obliterating any traces of the Azerbaijani heritage of the Azerbaijani region of Nagorny Karabakh and adjacent areas. With Yerevan's official backing, illegal settlements have been founded in the occupied territories, and settled with people from Armenia and other countries. The occupied territories have become a gathering place for terrorists and criminal gangs, and the smuggling of drugs, weapons and human beings is rife. Armenia has been actively accumulating weapons and strengthening its military personnel into Azerbaijani territory.

Recent circumstances have made it easier for Armenia to engage in increasingly open military provocation in the area of conflict. In the last few weeks, there has been a sharp increase in the Armenian side's violations of the ceasefire. Dozens of Azerbaijani military personnel have been killed or wounded as a result of shelling by Armenian units. There is now a real danger that widespread armed activity will resume. Azerbaijan believes in the peaceful resolution of disputes and has adhered scrupulously to the ceasefire agreement, but it has no intention of living indefinitely with such a situation.

Having drawn attention to these alarming events, I should like to refer to resolutions 822 (para. 4), 853 (para. 13), 874 (para. 12) and 884 (para. 8), in which the Security Council requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Conference to report to the Security Council on all aspects of the situation on the ground and on its development. In that connection, we urgently appeal to the Security Council and the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with those provisions. We expect the Security Council to take decisive action to put an end to Armenia's criminal, aggressive actions in occupied Azerbaijani territory and — in implementation of its own resolutions — to oblige the occupying forces to withdraw unconditionally, immediately and entirely from the Azerbaijani territory which they have seized.

(*Signed*) Vilayat **Guliyev**